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ANNALS

OF THE

HILTON-McCURDA FAMILY

" Sicut patribus sit Deus nobis "

CONCORD, N. H.
RUMFORD PRINTING COMPANY

1905

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THE HILTON-MCCURDA FAMILY.

William Hilton (1) came from London, England, to Plymouth, Mass., in the ship *Fortune* November 11, 1621. This was the first ship to come over after the *Mayflower*. His wife and two children followed in the *Anne* in July or August, 1623. In the allotments of land, in 1623, there was granted to him one acre lying "to the sea, eastward," and to his wife and two children three acres "butting against the swampe and reed ponds."

Prior to 1627 he removed from Plymouth and settled on the Piscataqua River near Dover. His first wife (name undiscovered) died about 1635, and he married Frances ——— about 1640. He was made freeman May 19, 1642, and had a grant of twenty acres of land in Dover that year. He was deputy from Dover to the general court at Boston in 1644. This year he sold lands at Dover and Oyster Parish (Durham), N. H., to Francis Matthews, and removed to Kittery Point, Me.

On June 27, at a court held at Gorgeana (York), Me., the following was recorded: "It is

ordered this court that Mr. William Hilton being licensed for to keep the ordinary at the mouth of the river Pascataqua and hee is for to keepe a ferry and to have the great Island. * * *." In 1651 he removed to York, Me., where he died in 1655 or 1656.

William Hilton (2), mariner, of York, Me., received lands granted to his father by the town of York and received three grants for himself from the town of York. He was one of the forty-six men who took the oath of allegiance to the King on March 22, 1680. He married, about 1675, Ann Beale. He died between March, 1699, and June, 1700.

William Hilton (3) born at York, Me., about 1678; married in Marblehead, Mass., June 2, 1699, Margaret Stilson, born 1679, died in Manchester, Mass., 1763, age 84 years. She was the daughter of James and Margaret (Gould) Stilson, granddaughter of Alex. and Margaret (Brown) Gould, great-granddaughter of John and Margaret (Hayward) Brown. This John Brown settled at Pemaquid, in what is now Bristol, Me. By deed dated July 15, 1625, Somerset and Umnangoit, Indian Sagamores, conveyed to him a tract of land embracing a large part of the present county of Lincoln and including Muscongus Island. This was the *first deed of land* conveyed in Maine. About 1687, James

Stilson, while crossing the water at Muscongus, was fired upon and killed by the Indians, who threw his youngest daughter and infant into the fire and carried his wife and two older children, James, Jr., and Margaret (above mentioned) captives to Canada. They were ransomed about eight years later, in 1695.

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In the council records William Hilton (3) is styled "Ensign William Hilton of York." He had several grants of land at York; he already had a dwelling house and land at Manchester, Mass., and another at Marblehead; he occupied lands at Muscongus, which he held in the right of his wife, Margaret, and others, which he purchased of Cesar Maxis and Gustin, Indian Sagamores. When the Indians were friendly he resided during the summer at Muscongus, where he made great improvements, had a large stock of cattle, and was extensively engaged in fisheries and coasting trade. Upon rumors of Indians on the war-path, he had to make sudden and frequent removals.

In the journal of Rev. Joseph Baxter is the following: "Aug. 12, 1721. Arrived at Casco Bay, where we met with Mr. Hilton of Muscongus in a vessel with his cattle and hogs on board, removing to ye westward who informed us that all his People were gone from Muscongus upon ye rumours that the Indians were to attack

by boat and taking along two dogs which he would throw overboard as he neared the shore. They would notify him by barking if Indians were around. In May, 1757, he took his sons William (5), Richard (5), and John (5) and went over in the boat to plant potatoes. They took a lot of pickled alewives to smoke, and the boat being so loaded they did not take the dogs along. William (5) jumped ashore to fasten the boat and fell in a shower of balls that wounded Richard (5) and William (4). John (5) tried to pull his brother into the boat, but could not, as he was a stout, heavy man. Finally he shoved off the boat and reached the garrison at Muscongus with his wounded brother Richard and his father. William (4) soon died from his wounds.

The people at Waldboro heard the firing and a company of twenty-five men started out and found "poor William." They took his bed and, using the tick for a winding-sheet, they buried him face downward, because they could not bear to throw the earth upon his face. His death was deeply lamented by all who knew him.

That fall Richard (5) and John (5) gathered the harvest, lodging three weeks in the woods and never two nights in the same place. Richard (5) carried the bullet in his thigh to his grave. At his burial, by his expressed desire, the bones

of his brother, William, were placed in the foot of his coffin and buried with him.

The descendants of William (4) are many—firm patriots and enterprising citizens.

William Hilton's (4) son, James (5), was away until the following spring after his father's and brother's decease. He swore eternal enmity against the Indians. Many years after, an apparently friendly Indian, called Maxy, approached his door. James, who was shaving, threw down his razor and, seizing a heavy cane, drove the Indian away with a sound cudgelling. When asked "how he could nearly kill an Indian in cold blood?" he replied, "How can I have a *drop of cold blood* in my body, when his people have killed *thirteen* of my nearest relatives?"

Anna Hilton (5), daughter of William Hilton (4), married John McCurda. She was born at Manchester, Mass., December 12, 1741, and married in 1759. Died at Windsor, Me. John McCurda's father came from Scotland, it is presumed, about 1730. In 1785, John McCurda and Anna (Hilton) McCurda, his wife, removed from Bristol to Windsor, Me., where both died. Their nine children were all born at Bristol, Me.

John McCurda (6), born Bristol, Me., March 4, 1760, died in War of 1812 at Sackett's Har-

ber, N. Y., presumably about 1814. Married, in 1795, Mary Reeves, who was born in Jefferson, Me., and died in 1856, aged 80 years. She was the daughter of James Reeves. She married, second, James Hannaford.

John McCurda (6), was a Revolutionary soldier. Massachusetts Revolutionary Rolls, volume 10, page 459, has the following statement: "John McCurday, Private, Capt. Benjamin Plummer's company, July 6, 1779—September 24, 1779; two months and eighteen days at Penobscot; company detached from Col. William Jones' regiment for service under Col. Sam'l McCobb on expedition against Major Bagaduee." This company was made up of men from Bristol, Me., and vicinity. The muster-roll of detachment appears on pages 98 and 115, volume 37, of Massachusetts Archives. Some of the members of this family have changed the spelling of the name; some have dropped the final *y*, retaining the *a*; others have dropped out the *a*, retaining the *y*; and still others have changed first *c* to *a*. In the oldest records it is frequently spelled McCordy.

To John McCurda and Mary (Reeves) McCurda were born eight children:

William McCurda (7), born at Jefferson, Me., July 30, 1806; died at Malden, Mass., April, 1884; married, first, Eliza Anne Ring, daughter

of Rev. John Ring; married, second, Maria Fisher Tidd, in 1845, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Powell) Tidd.

William Augustus (8), son of William and Eliza (Ring) McCurda, born October 4, 1836, at Liberty, Me.; married, at Clinton, Mass., Frances E. Burdett, on March 15, 1863.

Sarah Helen (8), daughter of William and Eliza (Ring) McCurda, born at Liberty, Me., April 23, 1838; married at Waltham, Mass., December 24, 1873, Dr. George Herbert Hackett; died at Concord, N. H., May 27, 1903.

Ida Isabelle (8), daughter of William and Maria (Tidd) McCurda, born at Liberty, Maine, June 9, 1846; married September 26, 1869, Matthew L. Paul of Boston and St. John, N. B.; married, second, Samuel F. Patterson, October 14, 1890, of Concord, N. H.

Alfareta Hortense (8), daughter of William and Maria (Tidd) McCurda, born at Clinton, Mass., June 2.

Charles Gardner (8), son of William and Maria (Tidd) McCurda, born at Clinton, Mass., May 30, 1862; married, first, Cora King, at Malden, Mass., December 24, 1882; married, second, Julia Fanning, at New York, November 23, 1904.

William E. (9), son of William Augustus and Frances (Burditt) McCurda, born Clinton,

Mass., March 4, 1864; married at Fitchburg, Mass., Georgianna Hayward, September 15, 1887.

Arthur A. (9), son of William Augustus and Frances (Burditt) McCurda, born Fitchburg, Mass., August 1, 1873; married at San Francisco, Rose Johnson, September 2, 1898.

Ruth Helen (9), daughter of William Augustus and Frances (Burditt) McCurda, born Fitchburg, Mass., January 10, 1875.

Walter Paul (9), son of Matthew and Ida (McCurda) Paul, born Boston, Mass., September 10, 1870; died Syracuse, N. Y., May 17, 1873.

Ruth Paul (9), daughter of Matthew and Ida (McCurda) Paul, born Syracuse, N. Y., March 21, 1878; married at Concord, N. H., William E. Croft, on December 5, 1899.

Paul McCurda (9), son of Charles and Cora (King) McCurda, born Malden, Mass., September 22, 1884.

Hayward (10), son of William E. and Georgianna (Hayward) McCurda, born Fitchburg, Mass., January 21, 1887.

Rachel (10), daughter of William E. and Georgianna (Hayward) McCurda, born Fitchburg, Mass., January 3, 1891.

Malcolm (10), son of Arthur A. and Rose (Johnson) McCurda, born at San Francisco, Cal., June 8, 1899.

Maurice (10), son of Arthur A. and Rose

(Johnson) McCurda, born at San Francisco, Cal., April 24, 1903.

Meridith (10), son of Arthur A. and Rose (Johnson) McCurda, born at San Francisco, Cal., July 25, 1904.

William Elmer, Jr. (10), son of William E. and Ruth (Paul) Crofut, born at Cleveland, Ohio, March 13, 1901.

